

## KENTUCKY'S HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP: BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY

This March, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security held the first homeland security working group meeting of 2005. The meeting was attended by over 25 high-ranking state officials who discussed Kentucky's overall homeland security strategy and approaches to implementing new policies and goals over the next year.

The working group, which was comprised of Lt. Governor Steve Pence, Adjutant General Donald Storm, Chief of Staff to the Governor Stan Cave, Secretary of the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet Erwin Williams, State Representative Mike Weaver (D-Hardin County) and State Senator Elizabeth Tori (R-Hardin County), among many others, joined KOHS staff in Frankfort in an effort to help fulfill Governor Ernie Fletcher's vision of a ready and prepared Kentucky.



Lt. Governor Steve Pence, Chief of Staff to Governor Fletcher, Stan Cave, and Major General Donald Storm discuss preparedness issues with other state officials at the Homeland Security Working Group.

## KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY HOSTS NATIONAL LEADER IN COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Recently, The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security hosted the first Statewide Citizen Corps Conference held right here in Kentucky. The event was attended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Acting Director for Community Preparedness Liz DiGregorio, who later commended Kentucky's efforts to ensure families throughout the commonwealth have the resources and information they need to be prepared.

"Citizen Corps provides a tremendous opportunity for the public to better prepare themselves and their communities in hometown security. I am excited about the steps Kentucky is taking to make this program an even greater success," said Liz DiGregorio, Director for Community Preparedness for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Kentucky's Citizen Corps Working Group Chairman, Dr. Earl Motzer

added, "Today's conference marks the first time local Citizen Corps councils, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Fire Corps, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and Neighborhood Watch, from across the state have had the opportunity to meet and discuss the issues that face our communities each day."

Citizen Corps is a community-based initiative to engage all citizens in homeland security and community and family preparedness through public education and outreach, training opportunities, and volunteer programs. At this time, there are more than 2,200 Citizen Corps volunteers in the Commonwealth.

For more information about Citizen Corps, or to find out how you can get involved, please visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our goal is to coordinate and collaborate with you, our preparedness partners. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

## ANSWERING THE CALL publication staff

Jason Keller, Chief Public Affairs Officer · [jasonr.keller@ky.gov](mailto:jasonr.keller@ky.gov)

Nathan Jones, Director of Publications · [nathan.jones@ky.gov](mailto:nathan.jones@ky.gov)

additional photos courtesy of **Brian C. Moore**

**KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY**  
READY AND PREPARED  
P.O. Box 1757  
Frankfort, KY 40602  
[homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://homelandsecurity.ky.gov)

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO 59  
LOUISVILLE KY

**KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY**  
READY AND PREPARED  
[homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://homelandsecurity.ky.gov)

## SUMMER 2005 IN THIS ISSUE

Ready and Prepared

Community  
Preparedness  
Program

NIMS  
Implementation

Citizen Corps  
Program for  
Citizen Involvement

Working Group  
Meeting Recap

This Document was prepared under a grant from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP), and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

**Kentucky**  
UNBROKEN SPIRIT

Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

Steve Pence  
Lieutenant Governor



# ANSWERING THE CALL

PREPARING KENTUCKY'S COMMUNITIES • FIRST RESPONDERS • FAMILIES

"The urgency of our nation's security is the calling of our times" – President George W. Bush

## READY AND PREPARED:

Why is it everyone's responsibility to answer the call?

As our state motto suggests, Kentuckians are accustomed to standing united behind the ideas and issues that we believe in. Nowhere is this more evident, or more important, than the Commonwealth's commitment to ensuring that our families, First Responders and communities are united in our efforts to be ready and prepared.

and effectively. For Kentucky, this means ensuring that our communities, First Responders and families have the resources and knowledge needed to be ready and prepared. In this newsletter, you will learn more about these important initiatives and how you can get involved.

Kentucky has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a hard-working and spirited population. The result is a vast commercial infrastructure system that includes:

- Two international airports
- The production of approximately 15% of the nation's electricity
- a major interstate transportation system which runs through over one-third of Kentucky's counties
- Several major shipping hubs

Because of these unique assets, it is critical that we put into place a strong prevention-focused homeland security strategy.

Governor Ernie Fletcher and the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security recognize these needs and are working to ensure that our Commonwealth's preparedness efforts are being coordinated efficiently



Every Kentuckian plays a vital role in our state's preparedness efforts.



PREPARING COMMUNITIES

# BUILDING A READY AND PREPARED KENTUCKY THROUGH RISK ASSESSMENTS

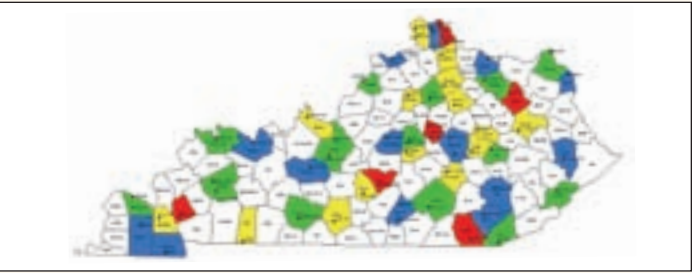
Earlier this year, Governor Ernie Fletcher unveiled a unique initiative to strengthen the security of 60 communities in Kentucky by locating and eliminating potential vulnerabilities.

The program focuses on prevention of hostile acts and crime in small and medium-sized communities through a system of risk assessments and recommendations for improved security. The Kentucky Community Preparedness Program will assess each community's infrastructure, including schools, water plants, communications systems, city halls, and other areas. Qualified communities will then be able to receive a savings on insurance through the Kentucky League of Cities, up to \$10,000 for recommended improvements, and may be eligible to be designated a "Certified Ready and Prepared Kentucky Community."

"By giving each community their own 'preparedness playbook'," said Governor Fletcher, "we will ensure the various security issues surrounding our Commonwealth's infrastructure are addressed."

Alexandria Chief of Police Mike Ward, whose community participated as a pilot community for the project in 2003, said, "Participating in the assessment process was extremely beneficial to Alexandria. It forced us to change the way we thought about our approach to terrorism and crime prevention, and gave us the opportunity to look at other areas of the community. There has been a decrease in crime here, and I attribute that, in part, to the adjustments we made from our vulnerability assessment."

"Law enforcement leaders in this state wanted a mechanism to make their communities safer from all threats, and that is exactly what this program provides," said DOJT Commissioner John W. Bizzack, whose department leads the implementation of the Community Preparedness Program. "It finds out where a community's vulnerabilities are and it offers a method, and in some instances funding, to make them stronger. A single criminal could create a catastrophic event for a community if he attacks the



Kentucky Community Preparedness Program – Participating Communities

2003 Pilot Communities 2005 Initial 15 Communities  
2005 Second 15 Communities 2005 Third 15 Communities



Community Preparedness Program Assessors survey port infrastructure and security in Owensboro, Kentucky.

right target. We have put together an experienced and knowledgeable team whose goal is to make sure that never happens."

For more information about the Kentucky Community Preparedness Program, or to find out how your community could become a part of this assessment, please visit [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov).

PREPARING FIRST RESPONDERS

# NIMS: WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a common approach to state and national response that will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents.

In April, officials from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security joined Grayson County's elected, law enforcement, public health, and response officials to pilot launch the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in Grayson County.

Following the launch, Grayson County Judge/Executive Gary Logsdon said, "The pilot launch here in Grayson County was an absolute success, and I look forward to seeing the progress of NIMS implementation throughout the state."

In the coming months, NIMS will become the standard incident management protocol for the entire Commonwealth and represents Kentucky's leadership in implementing national homeland security compliance measures.

State NIMS Compliance Officer Tom Arnold, who is partnering with Kentucky's Area Development Districts, is currently holding NIMS integration workshops across Kentucky to ensure all First Responders and local and state agencies are educated on NIMS integration and how it can best be implemented. To find out more about NIMS and how to ensure you are compliant, visit [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/nimsinfo](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/nimsinfo).

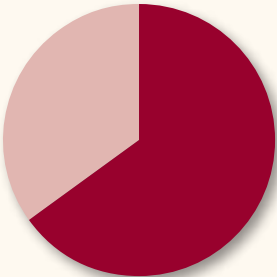
**"We are not accepting NIMS as a mandate, we are embracing it as a philosophy."**  
- Chief Gregory Frederick, Louisville Fire and Rescue



Like Prestonsburg firefighter Buck Gulick, First Responders across Kentucky are interested in NIMS implementation.

Courtesy of Jacinta Manning

## DID YOU KNOW?



Interoperable Communications, an important aspect of NIMS integration, received over 50% of Homeland Security Grant dollars for FY2004 and FY2005.

PREPARING FAMILIES

# WORKING TO ENSURE KENTUCKY'S FAMILIES ARE READY AND PREPARED

If disaster strikes, does your family know what to do? Do you have a plan in place and the appropriate equipment to ensure your family is ready and prepared? If not, Citizen Corps offers Kentuckians a chance to make a plan, be informed, and get the supplies you need to be prepared.

Citizen Corps readiness training is available at no cost to you and can make a real difference for you and your family if natural or man-made disasters strike.

Liz Digregorio, Director for Community Preparedness for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and head of the Citizen Corps program nationwide said, "Citizen Corps provides a tremendous opportunity for the public to better prepare themselves and their communities in hometown security. I am excited about the steps Kentucky is taking to make this program an even greater success."

Dr. Earl Motzer, state Citizen Corps Working Group Chairman, added, "The great thing about Citizen Corps is, it not only gives families a response plan to prepare for disasters, it prepares citizens to volunteer and aid their community during a crisis."

## PREPARE YOUR FAMILY!

Sign Up For Citizen Corps Training:

- [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov)
- [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)



Citizen Corps volunteers like these prepared to help their community's First Responders in Lexington.

**"Citizen Corps provides a tremendous opportunity for the public to better prepare themselves and their communities in hometown security. I am excited about the steps Kentucky is taking to make this program an even greater success."**

- Liz Digregorio, Director for Community Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security